



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Cutting Edge Publication by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

March 2019

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Number 03

What's New!

- The newest edition of the **Bonsai Care Booklet** is here. Pick yours up at the next meeting. The new edition is only \$15.
- **SABS HAS SOIL.** Those interested in purchasing a 5 gallon bucket of SABS' premier bonsai mix, at the March meeting, can email Ryan O to reserve a bucket, or two, or three, or five!!!!. \$25/bucket.
- **March 9th – 2020 Convention Meeting** at 9:00 am at the Lobby of the Drury Plaza Hotel at 823 North Loop 1604 East San Antonio, TX 78232. All SABS members are welcome to attend.
- **March 18th** – Our very own Jim H. will be giving a presentation on the art of bonsai at the **Gardening Volunteers of South Texas - Gardening Essentials** classes from 12pm-1pm at the San Antonio Garden Center 3310 N. New Braunfels.
- **March 23rd – Bexar County Master Gardener Cultivate Event** is held at the University of the Incarnate - Word International Conference Center at 847 E. Hildebrand. The event runs from 8am to 1pm with set-up beginning around 6:30am. Please email Ryan O. if you would like to help during the event.
- Check out our newly digitized/enhanced logo above!!!
- Please welcome the following new members **David R.**

All lecture/demonstration meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday, 7pm, at the Lions Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, SATX 78209

Our Bonsai Study Group is held every 4th Wednesday, 7pm, Lions Field. All members are invited to attend for hands-on assistance by experienced bonsai artists.

MARCH'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

March 14th – Spring Auction

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Hattie P. and Kevin P.

Mini-show Topic:

None

Bonsai Study Group:

March 27th

APRIL'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

April 11th – Team Styling Many Trees w/ Raffle

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Irene V. and Louie C.

Mini-show Topic:

TBD

Bonsai Study Group:

April 24th

MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership fees for The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. are below and include our monthly newsletter, annual BBQ and bonsai tour, multiple auctions, special trips, and name tag.

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Senior (60+) Individual</u>	<u>Senior (60+) Family</u>
\$30	\$50	\$25	\$40

President's Message

Klaus C.
collklaus@yahoo.com

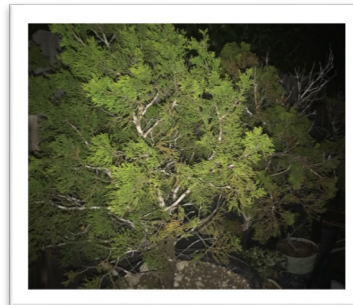
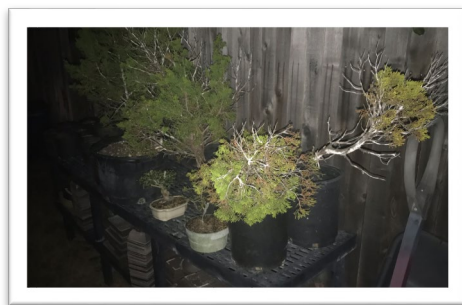
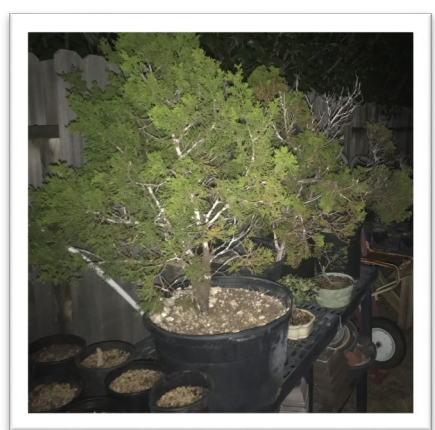
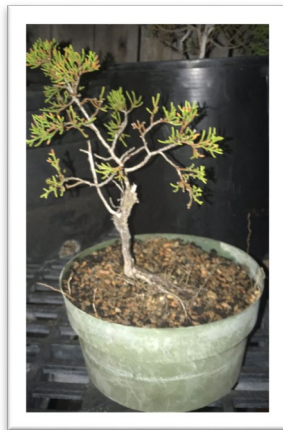
We had a very active month for February. Our latest workshop as usual is something to look forward to. This one, was to continue practicing our repotting. As always other skills are honed and questions were answered. A "Platinum Bonsai Mix" group effort generated 33 5gal buckets, of which more than half are sold. We are taking orders that can be delivered at our workshop or Thursday meeting. We had a successful Yamadori collection of 30 trees in Boerne, as well. All events were well attended including the February meeting.

Our spring Auction is about to begin for our March meeting. Besides being a lot of fun, we have a wide variety of items. **For the items donated, please mark you items with the tags attached.** For the items you want to bid on bring cash or check. A 5% service charge will be added to your credit card purchase. Show up by 6pm so items can be positioned and numbered paddles dispersed. We are meeting in the large multi activity room.

Convention Updates!

Next Convention meeting will be held on March 9th, at 9:00 am at the Lobby of the Drury Plaza Hotel at 823 North Loop 1604 East San Antonio, TX 78232.

Here are a few pictures of trees dug up in Boerne, in February, for the Convention.



Program Corner

Nick B.

Nick.browne637@gmail.com

Very excited about our next meeting, new trees, old faces, old trees, new faces. Quite a mix of characters! Finished trees, trees in progress, pots, material you're not sure what to do with, material you are tired of taking care of, books, tools, and the like are all welcome! SABS is enriched greatly with participation and donations to the club. Can't wait for another successful meeting!

You Speak... Editor Prints...

Indoor Bonsai

As we experiment with indoor bonsai, we learn more and more about the do's and don'ts. The most important step is to start with the proper materials; tropicals, woody herbs, etc.; and use bonsai techniques in their shaping.

Light is an important consideration. A southern exposure is super. An east or west window certainly beats a dark corner. If, however, you only have dark corners try some of the ever increasing styles of grow lights and rig an enchanting arrangement. Insufficient light will only encourage long internodes which, as you know, should be discouraged in developing good bonsai forms.

Humidity is all important too. Besides being watered as needed, the air surrounding the plants must carry some moisture. You would be surprised to find out how dry our houses are, especially during the winter months with our furnaces and heaters going. Try filling shallow plastic trays with chicken grit and place your bonsai on top of the chicken grit with a bit of water in the tray to the top of the chicken grit. Make sure no additional water reaches the pot and over soaks the bonsai soil. A light misting of your trees in the morning keeps them looking their best. Watering should be done in the morning rather than late in the day. Trees must have time to drain before the cooler temperatures of night set in. Watering late in the day can cause mildew.

House hold temperatures will vary from house to house. Most trees will tolerate a night time temperature no lower than 60° and a day time temperature no higher than 78°. Your trees will no doubt adjust to the temperature that you find comfortable.

If your tree collection is tucked o in some quiet corner it might be advisable to place a small fan on the floor facing your trees to cause movement of air around the trees.

-Alice Rothrock

Former SABS Member

Reprinted from Snips 'N Clips March-April, 1982

Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

This year has been very unusual in the Dallas-Ft Worth area. I have not watered my outdoor trees at all this year (and that probably goes all the way back to Dec 1 of 2018) while Steven in Ft Worth has been pretty dry. Other areas might also have been weird. You have to adjust your care and not just follow a set pattern or a timetable you read out of a book.

Regardless of where you live in Texas, there are probably three things calling for your immediate attention. Repotting is still being needed; new growth is running rampant and needs to be controlled; and you must keep any tree to be exhibited at the spring shows well groomed. Throw on top of that an aphid invasion or some scale and you should be plenty busy.

After growth starts some species can take a couple degrees of frost but unless you know what your particular tree can take you should keep it from freezing. Also, newly growing roots are more tender. In this area you should keep the new foliage out of the strong winds however they should have some breeze to help harden the new foliage and to help prevent insects and fungal diseases.

By this time most of you have finished repotting the early breaking species. Late starting species like the yaupons and most oaks might still be candidates for repotting this year.

In order to develop the ramification and fine twigs you want you must be pruning the new growth as it develops. Waiting until the shoots are three or four inches or longer results in coarse twigs with long internodes. These will have to be cut off and new ones developed if you are to have a good bonsai.

Essentially there are two kinds of growing habits, those with leaves growing alternately on the twigs, e.g. elms, oak, and hawthorn, and those with opposite growing leaves, e.g. maple.

The alternate growing leaves start out with small leaves and each succeeding leaf will be larger and the internodes longer. Also each leaf will have a latent bud in each leaf axial. If you let the shoot grow to 4 or 5 new leaves and cut it back to 2 or 3, you will be keeping smaller leaves and also getting twice as many growing tips on each branch and each will be a finer twig. Keep this up and you will soon have nice development on the branches of your bonsai. In determining whether to cut to two or three, note the direction that you wish the end of the branch to take and cut to the leaf which has the bud on that side of the branch. Note: If last year's twig has been let grow long it should be cut back to the first 2-3 buds and start over.

Tweezers are almost a necessity in refinement working on maples. The opposite growing leaves clasp the new growing tip and will be extending from the old bud but on a lengthening stem. If the new tip is taken off as soon as the leaves separate, the result is that the leaves will be smaller and the stem will stop lengthening. Then two new tips will pop from the new leaf axials and you will repeat the tip plucking. Tweezers work much better for this job. I will sometimes separate the new pair of leaves from the new tip with tweezers but be careful not to bruise them.

As the weather warms up the insects will surely make their appearance. Use the foliar spray (1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon of water) as often as necessary to control aphid, mites, caterpillars, etc. Spring usually means wet weather so watch for fungal problems such as blackspot.

I usually only get it on hollies and elms. You can use a 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide or baking soda spray for fungal problems. Do not mix baking soda with the foliar spray or any other acid.

Fertilizing is necessary once the trees start to grow. Too many trees exhibited do not have a good dark green foliage. Since we are using soilless mixes for the most part, a different technique is required than used for most potted plants. Water soluble chemical fertilizers should be used at half strength and more often since they will wash out with the next watering. The same is more or less true with liquid organic fertilizers. The best technique is to use solid organic fertilizers. Fertilizer cakes on the surface is the best way. They break down slowly and a small amount is carried into the root zone each time you water. Pelletized organic material can be spread on the surface also but they tend to crumble to create an undesirable surface and fill the open space in the soil. Be sure that the material you use has a balanced formula and not high in nitrogen.

2019 Asian Festival Photos – By Ryan O.



BONSAI FUNNIES

**Even birds
make do with
a slow
economy.**

*Images provided by various
internet sources.*



2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ♦ President: Klaus C.
- ♦ Vice President/Recorder: Nick B.
- ♦ Treasurer/Membership: Leydana R-M.
- ♦ Secretary: Bryan B.
- ♦ Raffles: Diane C.
- ♦ Directors at Large: Larry A., Carol B., Tammy B-R., and Jay N.

Technical Support to Board of Directors

- ♦ Webmaster/Editor/Publicity: Ryan O.



The informal upright style (Moyogi) is considered the most popular shape in all bonsai, especially suited to our Texas native Ashe Juniper.

Our logo, represented by this informal style stands for the informal nature of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. This popular, interesting style depicts the objectives of the Society – promoting participation and enjoyment of Bonsai. This emblem was adopted as the official logo in September 1977.

The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

Snips 'N Clips is published monthly by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, who maintains membership in the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc., Bonsai Clubs International, and the American Bonsai Society.

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